

National Fire Plan

Chester Air Base Ground Breaking Ceremony



California - On October 3rd, over 80 people gathered a groundbreaking ceremony for the reconstruction of the Chester Air Base in Susanville, Calif. The project will include improvement of runways and parking pads for aircraft, new building facilities for the air operations, and will meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations.

The cost, funded by the National Fire Plan is estimated to be \$2.8 million. Garco Construction, a local builder, was awarded the contract for the air base reconstruction project. The facility will be completed by March 2003.

Representatives from Congressman Wally Herger's office, Plumas County Board of Supervisors, and Plumas National Forest employees attended the ceremony and offered their support for the project. Mike Madden, Fire Management Officer for the Lassen National Forest, provided a history of the air base and thanked many agencies, employees, retirees, and public officials for their support. Ray Quintanar, Regional Fire and Aviation Director spoke of the strategic importance of the air base and the significance of this project to future firefighting efforts to northern California and northeastern Nevada.



From left to right: George Almond, Lassen Aviation Officer; Ed Cole, Lassen Forest Supervisor; Alex Oehler, Congressman Herger's representative; Bill Crane, National Air Tanker Base Project Assistant Manager; Smokey Bear; Ray Quintanar, Regional Fire and Aviation Officer; Bill Dennison, Plumas County Board of Supervisors; Mike Madden, Lassen Fire Management Officer; Joe Wood, Plumas Fire Management Officer; Jess Bengoa, Lassen Civil Engineer; Stan Kubota, Chester Air Base Manager.

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